

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPIC-03 AF-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4033

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 5047

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGOV, PO, (AZEVEDO, JOSE PINHEIRO DE)

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON ADMIRAL PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO

REF: LISBON A-26

1. NAVY CHIEF ADMIRAL JOSE PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO
HAS BEEN NAMED PRIME MINISTER, REPLACING VASCO GONCALVES.
FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION UPDATES BASIC BIO DATA
ALREADY IN DEPARTMENT FILES.WE SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO HIM.

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2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES WITHIN "GROUP OF NINE", AZEVEDO

OWES HIS ADMIRAL'S STRIPES TO PRO-COMMUNIST CLIQUE WITHIN THE NAVY (RAMIRO CORREIA GROUP). WHILE WE NOT CERTAIN THIS IS TRUE AZEVEDO'S CHIEF OF CABINET, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER CDR MANUEL MARTINS GUERREIRO, IS A PCP SYMPATHIZER AND MAY BE A PCP MEMBER. SAME SOURCES STATED THAT AZEVEDO IS FUNDAMENTALLY A DECENT INDIVIDUAL WHEN NOT UNDER PRESSURE, BUT WHEN PRESSURE IS ON, AS IN THE INSTANCES IN PAST WHERE IT HAS BEEN EXERTED BY COMMUNISTS, HE HAS KNUCKLED UNDER. HE HAS DESCRIBED HIS OWN POSITION TO ME AS "BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS." MY PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT AZEVEDO COULD BE MANIPULATED BY THE COMMUNISTS IF THEY ARE SKILLFUL, BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO TRY BY PLAYING ON HIS NAIVETE AND VANITY RATHER THAN ON EMOTION AND IDEOLOGY AS THEY DID WITH GONCALVES. ON THE OTHER HAND AZEVEDO LIKES TO SEE HIMSELF AS FORCEFUL AND DECISIVE AND COULD REACT AGAINST THEM IF THEY DEAL WITH HIM BADLY. HE IS CERTAINLY NOT AS CLOSE TO THEM AS GONCALVES, AND IS A VERY DIFFERENT PERSONALITY. PCP, MDP, AND COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS HAVE WELCOMED HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER.

3. AZEVEDO DOES HAVE SOME IMPORTANT MODERATE CHARACTERISTICS. HE HAS BEEN BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY A STRONG NATO SUPPORTER. ON HIS RETURN FROM NATO DPC THIS SPRING, AZEVEDO MADE A STILL CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT THAT NATO WAS NOT A TOOL OF U.S., BUT A DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION GUIDED BY MAJORITY RULE. THIS COUNTERED THE OFTEN STATED, AND WIDELY BELIEVED, LEFTIST LINE WHICH CONSIDERS NATO THE SPEARHEAD OF IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION IN PORTUGAL.

4. AZEVEDO IS A GOOD FRIEND OF COSTA GOMES, AND I HAVE NOTED THAT HE HAS HAD OPEN AND FREQUENT ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT. IN SOME WAYS HE IS LIKE COSTA GOMES, VOCALLY PRO-WESTERN, BUT A CONCILIATOR AND COMPROMISER, WHO DELUDES HIMSELF INTO THINKING HE IS A DECISION MAKER. LIKE COSTA GOMES HE SAYS HE IS ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF COMMUNISM BUT ARGUES THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS ARE DIFFERENT, AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, BECAUSE THEY HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE AFM. HE HAS GIVEN ME THE SAME OLD "WE CAN HANDLE THEM" LINE. HE HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MARIO SOARES BUT SYMPATHETIC TO THE PSP PHILOSOPHY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ME, ALTHOUGH HIS UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM IS NOT PROFOUND, TO SAY THE LEAST.

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5. IN THE NUMBER OF TIMES I HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH AZEVEDO, THE ADMIRAL HAS BEEN BLUFF, OPEN, AND EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, ALMOST FATHERLY. AZEVEDO HAS CONFIRMED TO ME RUMORS OF HIS ILL-HEALTH, THOUGH HE HAS NOT REVEALED THE NATURE OF HIS ILLNESS AND NOW CLAIMS TO BE BETTER. HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE HAD A MILD HEART ATTACK.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY

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NNN

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